

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY UNVEILS STUDY OF WINE AND GRAPE INDUSTRY IMPACT
Growing Sector Provides \$813 Million a Year to N.C. Economy

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley released a study today showing North Carolina’s wine and grape industry provides an \$813 million a year boost to the state’s economy. North Carolina is the nation’s 10th largest grape and wine producing state.

“The expanding wine and grape industry in North Carolina brings important revenue to our state and has tremendous potential for continued growth,” Easley said. “Vineyards also help preserve family farms and contribute to our state’s reputation as a place of natural scenic beauty.”

North Carolina is home to 55 wineries in 31 counties. Since 2000, the number of wineries in the state has nearly tripled and grape acreage has more than doubled. In the same period, total grape production has increased more than 70 percent.

The study, which was prepared by MKF Research and commissioned by the state Department of Commerce’s Tourism Division and the N.C. Wine & Grape Council, verifies this growing industry’s significant impact on the state’s economy.

The study also concludes that the North Carolina grape and wine industry, along with affiliated businesses, creates 5,700 full-time jobs and \$158 million in wages. In addition, the industry paid \$56 million in federal taxes and \$38 million in state and local taxes in 2005, including more than \$2 million in federal and state excise taxes on wine.

North Carolina wineries hosted more than 800,000 visitors in 2005, reflecting the importance of this industry to state tourism. Spending in wine-related tourism topped \$122 million in 2005.

For more information about the state’s wine and grape industry, visit the Wine & Grape Council’s website at www.ncwine.org.

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